

REPUBLICA DE CABO VERDE
MISSAO PERMANENTE JUNTO AS NACOES UNIDAS



REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E.
AMBASSADOR JOSE LUIS JESUS OF CAPE VERDE
ON BEHALF OF ANGOLA, GUINE-BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE,
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE AND CAPE VERDE IN THE
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE ON THE EAST TIMOR QUESTION

New York, August 9, 1990

Mr. Chairman:

I am taking the floor on behalf of Angola, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and my own country, Cape Verde to make the following statement on the question of East Timor.

Mr. Chairman,

The progress made in the decolonization process is perhaps the most important achievement of the United Nations in its half century effort to correct unjust relations and bring about a more harmonious and just world.

The role played by this Committee has been fundamental in the effort of the United Nations to secure the continued success of decolonization.

Those of us that were subject to colonial rule in the past, value greatly the historical contribution of this Committee in this regard and praise highly its unwavering commitment to help bring decolonization to a successful path.

For those that are still under colonial occupation or domination, this Committee is a beacon of hope and a guarantee that their legitimate and inalienable rights will be duly considered in accordance with the United Nations principles, rules and practice on decolonization.

East Timor is one of such territories whose people have not yet had the opportunity to exercise freely, and without constraint of any sort, their right to self-determination.

The debate that over the years has taken place in this Committee, in the General Assembly and other fora, has made it clear that resolution 1514 remains still to be implemented in the case of East Timor.

The countries on whose behalf I am speaking today, have consistently and unequivocally supported the right of East Timor to self-determination, and, on many occasions, they have clearly stated their outright and firm rejection of the occupation of that territory by Indonesia.

We do so, not because of the historical, cultural and linguistic ties that link us with East Timor and its people. Certainly we have these ties very close to our hearts and they are an important factor that over the years, and I would say, over the centuries, contributed to cement our closeness and the special friendship that exist amongst our countries and East Timor.

Instead, our position is, essentially, based upon the necessity to respect the right of self-determination of all colonial countries and peoples as enshrined in the UN Charter and developed in Resolution 1514.

It was under the umbrella of this right and principle of self-determination, whose virtues have been cherished by all for decades, that our countries, along with many others, including Indonesia, were able in the darker days of colonialism, to make their case and rally diplomatic support that eventually led to independence of many us.

It would therefore be an irony of history if we were to deny the East Timor people and, for that matter, any other colonial people, their right to self-determination.

East Timor is a clear-cut case of colonial occupation. Its people therefore, should be granted an opportunity to exercise the right to choose their own destiny.

Certainly, their present colonial situation is no exception to our own past colonial status. Justice, therefore, demands that their case be treated no differently.

We believe it to be wrong to apply the self-determination principle selectively, uphold ^{it} where it squares with our general foreign policy and turning our back to it when it does not suit well to what we perceive to be our national interests.

Mr. Chairman:

Indonesia claims that the people of East Timor chose integration with it. If that was to be the result of a free choice of that people, we would not be here today discussing the question of East Timor.

However, we all are aware that th4e so-called "choice" of the East Timor people took place as a consequence of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor and under the duress of the military occupation of that territory. No one, we are sure, would consider a choice made under such circumstances to be a "free and a credible choice".

But if, in fact, the people of East Timor was for the integration as Indonesia claimed then she should not be affraid of allowing a referendum in the territory, supervised by the United Nations, as a means to put an end to the East Timor conflict.

Mr. Chairman:

Since 1982, a mandate was given to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring answers for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem.

Nine years later, no significant step has been taken other than a pledge of co-operation, as reflected in document A/AC.109/1037.

We believe it is hightime that an internationally accepted solution be found for the question of East Timor.

At a time that there is a marked trend and a international environment favourable to the search of peaceful solutions for the international conflicts, we urge the parties involved, including Portugal, as the Administering Power, to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the discharge of his mandate with a ieuw to finding a final solution for the conflict.

Mr. Chairman,

Our countries continue to have serious concern with the precarious human rights situation that prevail in East Timor.

The working paper prepared by the Secretariat, contained in document A/AC.109/1037, and especially the well-documented statement made in this Committee this morning by the representative of Amnesty International, have further deepen that concern of ours. We ask the Indonesian authorities to take measures to prevent and correct the abuses of human rights in the territory. The United Nations Human Rights monitoring bodies should also take steps to make sure that these abuses are corrected.

In conclusion, Sir, it is our hope that tolerance and good will in the end will prevail to allow for a peaceful solution to be worked out in benefit of stability and brotherhood of all the peoples in the region.

I thank you.